

The Writing Academy Lesson Plans

Block # 1 - Lesson # 4

Concept: Telescoping

Learning Style	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; padding: 5px;"> Auditory Visual Tactile </div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">The learning style addressed by the activity will be in bold-faced letters.</p>
Rationale	<p style="text-align: center;">Students need a concrete way of staying on topic.</p>
Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Tell the students that it is important when they write that they do not “go off on a tangent.” Ask if anyone can define what you mean by not “going off on a tangent”. 2) Tell them you are going to show them a concrete way to remember to stay on topic when writing. 3) Ask the students to raise the hand with which they normally write. Tell them to make a tunnel with that hand and to look through it at a designated light in the classroom. Tell them to pretend that light is the moon. Tell them to pretend their hand is a telescope. Ask them to pop corn out what they see on the moon. They may say, “It has light, it has shadows, it is bright, etc..” If they say, “It is square.” Laugh and say “Work with me, you are <u>pretending</u> it is the moon!” 4) Tell them to move their telescope to the trash can in the classroom. 5) Ask them if the trash can tells them anything about the moon. No, because they have moved their telescope. 6) Tell them to move their telescope back to the “moon”, and zoom in some more. What else can they see? They may say, “Craters, space rocks, the flag we left on the moon, etc.” 7) Tell them to remember to keep focused on what they are writing about – not to move their telescopes. <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Teacher note: This is a 3 minute lesson. However, you refer to it all year. Tell the students often as you assign a writing assignment, “Remember, stay focused on what you are writing, do not move your telescope.” When you are walking down the aisle and reading over a particular student’s shoulder and notice that he/she has gone off of topic, point to the place in his/her paper and ask, “What happened here?” He/she will re-read it, and say “Oh, I moved my telescope!” Ask him/her to fix it.</p>